

575 19th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
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Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #98N-1038

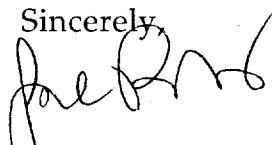
I am writing to express my concerns regarding irradiated foods. As a consumer and supporter of organic foods, I do not consume irradiated food and do not believe irradiation of food should be permitted at all. However, since the FDA has determined irradiation to be legal, I feel strongly that the FDA must carefully regulate this very controversial practice **and provide consumers with sufficient information to make informed personal decisions regarding what they will consume.**

Specifically, regarding whether the wording of the current radiation disclosure statement should be revised, I strongly urge the FDA to maintain prominent labeling on irradiated foods. Further, I demand that the FDA resists industry pressures to use **deliberately misleading labels such as "electronic pasteurization" or "cold pasteurization."** These labels are clearly intended to hide the fact that food products have been irradiated in order to prevent consumer anxiety. The onus should be on the food processing industries that support irradiation to demonstrate its safety.

In addition, regarding whether such labeling requirements (both the label and the radura symbol) should expire at a specified date in the future, I demand that the FDA should maintain this requirement and that it should not expire at any time in the future.

Although irradiation of food has been ruled safe and legal by the FDA, numerous hazards have been cited by critics. At a time when consumers are demanding increasing information and accountability from food producers, the public deserves to be fully informed on this controversial issue. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Burns

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